

ISLAND CITY

Mint of the United States
Daniel M. Fox Esq. Superintendent -
Dear Sir -

In answer to your letter of inquiry of this date, I answer.
1st Have no means of knowing whether it was a necessity or not. Do know that the "Ajax" was a substitute for the one sent to the government exhibit at New Orleans about the beginning of the year.
2nd The price of this Press will compare very favorably with presses of a similar size and character built for the different Mints of the U.S. for the last fifteen years.
3rd It has been the custom and was considered a necessity in former years to have duplicate castings, annealing plates, grate bars &c. on hand in case of a break down, so that an accident would not necessitate a general shutting down of the establishment,
over

more particularly since the silver bill
has become a law. The draw bench
chains are renewed only when the
old ones are worn out.

The charges I do not consider excessive.

Very respectfully

John L. McQuinn
Chief Engineer

August 6 /85

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 135

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John L. McGinnis
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August 6, 1885